



Flathead National Forest

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Media Release

September 23, 2011

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Trail Closure Update for the Flathead National Forest

After receiving between .5 and 1.25 inches of rain earlier this week, fire activity on the Flathead National Forest has been relatively quiet, allowing officials to modify certain trail closures. However, the moisture was not enough to be a season ending event and several fires are still smoking; the potential for additional spread and growth remains.

On the Hungry Horse Ranger District

The **Puzzle Fire** is 1579 acres. Over the last few days, the cooler temperatures, high relative humidity, and rain resulted in minimal fire activity. Most of the area, trail, and road closures on the Hungry Horse District and on the Lewis and Clark National Forest's Rocky Mountain Rocky District (RMRD) have been lifted. Morrison Trailhead and Trail #154 **are now open** to public use. However:

- *Skyland Road #569 past Morrison Trailhead remains closed to ATV traffic.*

On the Spotted Bear Ranger District

The **Stadler Creek Fire** is 561 acres and the **Upper Ayres Fire** is 174 acres. Officials **have opened** the Fiction Creek Trail #272 and the Ayres Creek Trail #273. The Stadler Creek Trail remains **closed** due to fire activity. In addition, the RMRD of the Lewis and Clark National Forest is retaining trail closures because of the South Fork of the Sun River Prescribed Fire which is expected to occur this weekend.

Thus, current trail closures include:

- *Hoadley Creek Trail #226,*
- *Stadler Creek #271,*
- *East Fork Ahorn Trail #225 (South East of Grizzly Basin),*
- *South Fork of the Sun #202 (South of Bench Mark).*

The **Big Salmon Lake Fire** is 5337 acres. The fire has been relatively inactive with the recent precipitation. Areas of active smoke still remain in the Brownie Creek area and Salmon Point area. Access to the outlet of Big Salmon Lake is now allowed; all other trail closures remain.

- *Trail # 110 Big Salmon Creek is closed between the outlet and the junction of Trail # 451.*
- *Trail #111 and Trail #451 are also closed.*

There are no changes due to the 6259-acre **Hammer Creek Fire**, and each of these trails remains closed:

- *The Lime Creek Trail # 193,*
- *Tillson Peak #127,*
- *Sandstone Trail # 7435,*
- *The East Side South Fork Trail #80 from the pack bridge at the Big Prairie Ranger Station to the Holbrook Ford junction.*

The Clack Creek fire remains 121 acres. There has been no recent activity, and no fire activity is expected in the near future. There are no trail closures due to this fire.

On the Swan Lake Ranger District

The South Fork Lost Creek Fire is approximately 2100 acres.

- *Road 680 (between Road #5206 and Termini) and Trail #86 remain closed.*
- All other closures have been lifted.

For current updates, visitors can contact the Spotted Bear Ranger District at 406-758-5376; the Hungry Horse Ranger District at 406-387-3800 (weekdays); the Lewis and Clark National Forest's Rocky Mountain Ranger District at 406-466-5341 (weekdays); or the Lewis and Clark's Augusta Information Station at 406-562-3247. Information is also available online at <http://inciweb.org/>.

Visitors are reminded to use caution when traveling in any burned area. Some of the potential hazards to be cognizant of include: ash often disguises holes; burned trees (snags) may fall with little warning; logs and rocks on hillsides can unexpectedly begin rolling downhill. These hazards can exist for several months.

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